

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A steering wheel mounting hub comprising a plastic frustum-shaped body having a generally planar upper surface of a predetermined first diameter and an opposed generally planar lower surface of a predetermined second diameter larger than the first diameter, said upper surface having fastening means for attaching a steering wheel thereto, and a mounting bore extending through said body between said upper surface and said lower surface, said bore defining an inner surface and being adapted to receive an end of a steering shaft.

2. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 wherein said fastening means is a plurality of apertures formed in said body at said upper surface and adapted to receive self-tapping threaded fasteners.

3. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 wherein said inner surface has a star-shaped profile.

4. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 3 wherein said star-shaped profile is formed by a plurality of V-shaped grooves.

5. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 wherein said inner surface has a cylindrical profile with a plurality of radially outwardly extending grooves.

6. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 including a recess formed said upper surface for receiving a steering shaft nut.

7. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 including an annular recess formed in said lower surface between a central boss and an outer wall of said body.

0001 13703/0001/637408.1

8. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 7 including a plurality of radially extending ribs connected between said central boss and said outer wall dividing said annular recess into a plurality of segments.

9. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 8 wherein each said segment has an associated slot formed in a bottom wall of said recess.

10. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 1 wherein said body is formed of a reinforced plastic material.

11. (Original) A steering wheel mounting hub comprising:

a plastic frustum-shaped body having a generally planar upper surface of a predetermined first diameter and an opposed generally planar lower surface of a predetermined second diameter larger than the first diameter;

a plurality of fastener apertures formed in said body at said upper surface for receiving fastening means to attach a steering wheel to said upper surface;

a central recess formed in said body at said upper surface for receiving a steering wheel retaining nut; and

a mounting bore formed through said body and centered on a longitudinal axis of said body, said bore extending from said central recess to said lower surface and being tapered to receive an end of a steering shaft.

12. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 11 wherein said fastener apertures are adapted to receive self-tapping threaded fasteners.

13. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 11 wherein said mounting bore has an inner surface with a star-shaped profile.

14. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 13 wherein said star-shaped profile is formed by a plurality of V-shaped grooves.

0001.32703/0001/627408.1

15. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 11 wherein said mounting bore has an inner surface with a cylindrical profile and a plurality of radially outwardly extending grooves.

16. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 11 including an annular recess formed in said lower surface between a central boss and an outer wall of said body.

17. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 16 including a plurality of radially extending ribs connected between said central boss and said outer wall dividing said annular recess into a plurality of segments.

18. (Original) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 17 wherein each said segment has an associated slot formed in a bottom wall of said recess.

19. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel assembly comprising:

a steering wheel having a center disk with a plurality of mounting apertures formed therein;

a plurality of fasteners ~~fastener means;~~

a retaining nut; and

~~a mounting hub connected to said center disk of said steering wheel by said fastener means, said mounting hub having a plastic frustum-shaped body with a generally planar upper surface of a predetermined first diameter and an opposed generally planar lower surface of a predetermined second diameter larger than the first diameter, a plurality of fastener apertures formed in said body at said upper surface and retaining said fastener means, a central recess formed in said body open to said upper surface for receiving a steering shaft~~ said retaining nut, and a mounting bore formed in said body extending from a bottom wall of said recess to said lower surface and being tapered to receive a steering shaft whereby when a

000132703/0001/627408.1

threaded upper end of a steering shaft is inserted in said mounting bore, said retaining nut is received in said central recess and threadably engages the upper end of the steering shaft and each of said fasteners is extended through one of said mounting apertures and engages one of said fastener apertures for retaining said center disk against said upper surface of said mounting hub and covering said retaining nut.

20. (New) The steering wheel mounting hub according to claim 5 wherein said grooves are rectangular in profile.